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Development corporation gets new rules

DOWNTOWN

Council OKs $600K grant, establishes new model

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Tougher rules, a new funding model and a reaffirmed mandate are the new terms Winnipeg city council will impose on CentreVenture Development Corporation.

During its final meeting of the year, council approved a $600,000 operating grant for the arms-length development corporation, along with the creation of what it touts as a more sustainable funding model.

"This is really important. We need to keep the momentum going downtown," Coun. Jenny Gerbasi of the Fort-Rouge-East Fort Garry ward, said Wednesday.

"Downtown is the heart of the city for all of us."

A review of the development corporation was prompted earlier this year after Mayor Brian Bowman questioned the nature of the corporation's dealings with True North Sports and Entertainment over the future $400-million True North Square.

Now, the corporation will be required to submit a new business plan to the city, and regularly report to council on project timelines, funding sources as well as costs.

Many councillors Wednesday espoused their support for the increased accountability, but also recognized the corporation's integral role in supporting the city's growth.

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Decorations relations: Canadian Tire and Walmart in light fight over clip-ons. **Business**

Two-day session sees new record from Scott Nolan

BACKSTAGE PASS

Album was done live-off-the-floor style in Alabama

Jared Story
Metro | Winnipeg

Scott Nolan celebrates the release of his new album Silverhill on Saturday at the Park Theatre.
MIKE LATSCHISLAW

Winnipeg singer-songwriter Scott Nolan made his new album in Alabama, but it's still home-brewed.

Silverhill was recorded over two days at the home of musicians Anthony and Savana Lee Crawford in Silverhill, Alabama. Nolan first visited the small southern town when he played The Frog Pond at Blue Moon Farm, an outdoor concert series akin to Levon Helm's Midnight Ramble.

Taken with The Frog Pond, Nolan returned to Silverhill with a batch of tunes and recorded them with Willie Sugarcapps, a band that was born on Blue Moon Farm.

A spirited and spirituous affair, Silverhill's 13 songs are sequenced in the same order in which they were recorded, so you can actually hear the hillbilly hooch by track six.

"It was the end of day one and someone brought along apple pie moonshine from one of the neighbouring farms. It's like a 103-year-old recipe," Nolan says.

> **"I like to say it's an ancient musicality. When you put those five people together, magic happens.** Scott Nolan

"I'd been nursing it and by the track When Can I See You Again you can hear it in my voice. I had to be talked into including that cut. Art (MacIntyre) at Transistor 66, my label in Canada, it was one of his favourites and he insisted on it. I was nervous. It's like that photo of your drunk uncle at a wedding, like 'Oh god, look at his face.' That's how it sounded to my ears."

Silverhill was recorded live-off-the-floor with no rehearsals or pre-production. Nolan says teaming up with Willie Sugarcapps — a band composed of the Crawfords, Grayson Capps, Will Kimbrough and Corky Hughes — allowed him to tap into some moonshine magic.

"I like to say it's an ancient musicality. When you put those five people together, magic happens," Nolan says.

In addition to Willie Sugarcapps, Silverhill contains three co-writes, including When You Leave This World with Hayes Carll.

The Texas country artist previously covered Nolan's Bad Liver and a Broken Heart on his 2008 album Trouble in Mind.

"He invited me to do this particular tour and the premise was we would live straight and clean and write. We didn't do that at all. We spent our nights in Irish bars getting loaded," Nolan says

"On the last day I sent him a text saying 'Goddammit! You told me to come here. You said we were going to do this. I fucking demand a song.'

"I'm really thrilled with how it turned out."

Scott Nolan plays the Park Theatre on Saturday. Tickets are $20 at the Park Theatre, Music Trader and Ticketfly. Showtime is 9 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY

Film to examine Phantom obsession

A film that has a cult following only in Winnipeg is getting a documentary on our weird love for the strange movie.

Malcolm Ingram says Phantom of the Paradise is a movie he grew up loving while most people hated it. He thought he was alone in his obsession, until he read an article by Winnipeg Phantom of the Paradise lover Doug Carlson. Ingram discovered Winnipeg was the only city where people really liked the film, Ingram said.

"It's kind of a freaky phenomenon," said Ingram.

He decided to produce and direct a documentary, called Phantom of Winnipeg, about the community of fans in the River City and started filming this past October. Although Ingram is from Toronto, he said he's had no trouble finding Winnipeggers to interview on screen.

"There's this kind of network that's created through the fandom," said Ingram. Once he found one fan, he found others who had met through Winnipeg events centring around the film, such as Phantompalooza.

MEG CRANE/FOR METRO

CONTEXT

Brian De Palma's comedy-horror-musical-tragedy, Phantom of the Paradise, came out in 1974.

The film lasted more than four months in theatres in Winnipeg.

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Jodi Parrott has crochet many hats and scarves for refugees. MEG CRANE/FOR METRO

Woman wants to knit community together

CLOTHING DRIVE

Winnipegger hopes to collect winter wear for Syrian refugees

Meg Crane
For Metro | Winnipeg

A Winnipeg woman has crafted a drive she hopes will help stitch Syrian refugees to their new, if chilly, community.

Jodi Parrott has launched Tuques for Manitoba, with the aim of providing refugees handmade winter wear, calling it a personal touch for a charitable act.

"There's a little more love that goes into it," Parrott said.

She imagines she would appreciate a handmade gift if she were in the situation of Syrian refugees coming to Winnipeg.

Parrott has also seen, firsthand, the impact of giving a handmade gift to someone in need. A couple of years ago, she gave a scarf she knit to a homeless man who looked cold.

"He just started crying. He was so happy, he gave me a big hug. People do appreciate it," said Parrott.

> **The longer we wait, the longer people don't have these things.**
> Jodi Parrott

Tuques for Manitoba was launched after Parrott read about a woman in Quebec doing something similar.

She said she started the project before figuring out all the details, such as drop-off points.

"The longer we wait, the longer people don't have these things," Parrott said.

Now, she's looking for someone to help organize and for businesses to collect donations for her to pick up. She's also working out arrangements to get the items to refugees through a couple of organizations and is collecting not just handmade winter wear, but all clothes the refugees could use.

She emphasizes that they will need casual business clothes for job interviews.

Anyone with donations can find Tuques for Manitoba on Facebook and contact Parrott through the page about getting involved.

She said she'll be continuing the project long-term, not just until Syrian refugees settle into Manitoba.

"People need stuff all the time," Parrott said.

HARVEST

Volunteers step up after call for formula

Evan Matthews
For Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg Harvest's crisis call for baby formula first came two years ago, as they were down to 11 tins, said Susan Krepart. She recalls standing in her kitchen, as she heard the call over the radio.

As a mother of two, Krepart said something inside of her just snapped.

"For them to be down to 11 tins — sound the alarm bells," said Krepart. "God forbid if you're in that position, and that formula isn't available for you. As a parent — it got to me."

> **God forbid if you're in that position, and that formula isn't available for you.**
> Susan Krepart

Krepart took to Facebook. She said she asked her friends, straight out: "Look, I know you guys have money, so give me five bucks — let's cut the crap."

She said her goal was to raise about $200. In her first day she raised $1,000.

"A couple days in, a woman contacted me and said she had formula," Krepart said. "But my friend private-messaged me and said, 'the woman who contacted you is my cousin. She just lost her baby two days ago, and I don't think she wants anyone coming over.'"

Krepart said the woman's name was Jennifer Hay. With Hay's permission, the name of the drive was changed to the Magnus Hay Formula Drive, in honour of Jennifer's son, who died from a rare blood disease.

"These parents are able to talk proudly about this soul that was here, and fought for three months," said Krepart. "This is his legacy."

Harvest issued another crisis-call this week, saying they're $100,000 short in annual funds dedicated to baby formula. Harvest's Kate Brenner said this is the only area where Harvest spends money, and it can't rely on donations alone.

Brenner said Harvest provides 1,600 families with baby formula every month. Now in its third year, the Magnus Hay Formula Drive has answered 10 per cent of Harvest's crisis call.

Winnipeg Harvest's managing director, Kate Brenner, said **Harvest is seeing a softening in donations which led to a public appeal for help.** EVAN MATTHEWS/FOR METRO

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Police buy armoured vehicle

Winnipeg residents will only see this vehicle out on the streets when it's needed. It will not be doing regular patrols, emphasized police. COURTESY TERRADYNE LTD.

GEAR

Vehicle to offer protection during tactical ops, says chief

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Police Service defended its purchase of a tank-like car Wednesday, saying the purchase is about protecting officers and civilians.

Winnipeggers learned Wednesday the police service spent $343,000 to buy a new armoured vehicle, the first of its kind for the force.

"It's really difficult to put monetary value on life," Supt. Gord Perrier told reporters during a news conference at the Public Safety Building.

"At the end of the day, this is about public safety. This is about protecting officers during very high-profile, stressful events."

He explained the new vehicle — used by police forces across Canada — would be deployed primarily for rescue purposes and crisis negotiations.

Responding to an active shooter would be one such scenario, Perrier said.

"It's about weapons. If weapons are present, this is where that vehicle will come into play."

He emphasized no additional gear would be mounted onto the vehicle, which he specified would be used exclusively during tactical operations, not regular patrols.

One of the "tipping points" in the decision-making process to buy an armoured vehicle was the 2014 shooting of five RCMP officers in Moncton, N.B., following years of ongoing risk analysis, Perrier said.

But questions were still raised around the purchase process itself — mainly, the fact the new buy was never tabled before the city's board of police commission for approval.

Police board head Coun. Scott Gillingham said it was an operational decision the force had the right to make.

He said every budget year, the police chief has permission to reallocate up to $2 million in salaries and benefits, as well as $500,000 in other operating expenses.

But moving forward, Gillingham said all police purchases exceeding $100,000 would require board consent.

Any public perception the new vehicle is militarizing the police force was also among chief concerns, even amongst those in the service, Perrier explained.

"It's difficult to create a balance between what is officer safety, and what could be viewed as military aspects of the police."

That's why, he said, police purchased the vehicle from civilian contractor Terradyne Armored Vehicles, rather than convert an existing military vehicle.

"That sends a message we're really uncomfortable with," he said.

Police said the vehicle is currently on order and expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

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EDUCATION

North End Jesuit school rouses ire

A private Jesuit school that is set to open next fall in one of Winnipeg's poorest inner-city neighbourhoods is already sparking debate.

Gonzaga Middle School will follow a Jesuit model used in other cities that incorporates greater support, longer school hours and summer programs.

The school also plans to remove barriers for low-income and academically gifted students between Grade 6 and Grade 8 by offering free education.

But Larry Morrissette, executive director of Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin, an organization that works with youth in gangs, says the indigenous community was not properly consulted. He says the school goes against the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

And he worries the mistakes of the past could be repeated.

"Again they're coming in with the idea that they know better than us," says Morrissette. "There's no call in that report that asks for, you know, the Jesuits or any other religious group to come into the city, north end, central, to build schools."

Mark Wasyliw, chairman of the Winnipeg School Division, is also concerned, saying the school will pick and choose certain students, leaving others behind.

"We're interested in building up communities and that means building up all students in a community," says Wasyliw.

Grade 8 students who graduate from Gonzaga Middle School will be offered tuition-free education at St. Mary's Academy or St. Paul's High School.

Wasyliw says that would move youngsters who could develop into community leaders out of the city's North End.

He says the school means well, but funding could be better used to support programs that already exist within the community and school division.

> **They're coming in with the idea that they know better than us.**
>
> Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin executive director Larry Morrissette

"They're planning to help 60 students within that neighbourhood and what we're saying is that if you work with us, we could do a lot more with that money and we certainly could help a lot more than 60 students," says Wasyliw.

Gonzaga Middle School principal Tom Lussier has issued a statement promising it will be an inclusive organization.

He says the school will be "open to a variety of cultural traditions and expressions of spirituality, including Christian and indigenous traditions. We want our students to learn and respect their own faith and spiritual traditions, to understand where they come from and who they hope to become."

Lussier says the school supports recommendations from the TRC report, and plans to include indigenous studies in the curriculum.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The city hopes to crack down on illegal dumping next summer. COURTESY LOVEMELOVEMYWINNIPEG.BLOGSPOT.COM

City mum on cameras

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Pilot program to curb illegal trash dumping to start in 2016

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

The city is being tight-lipped about future locations of high-powered video cameras aimed to catch those who illegally dump garbage in the act.

A request for a proposal to buy new surveillance equipment was recently posted to the City of Winnipeg's bid website, with its application closing this week.

The posting comes months after council approved the implementation of a two-year pilot program that will see six high-resolution cameras installed in areas routinely plagued by dumping objects such as old furniture, mattresses and bags of abandoned trash.

Councillor Ross Eadie of the Mynarski ward was one proponent of the new approach, which came with a price tag of $54,000.

"Video cameras are actually a really good idea because they'll be able to actually catch these people. Once we have them, they're going to start to learn a lesson," he said Tuesday.

But when asked as to the future locations of the cameras, both he and a city communications officer wouldn't provide specifics.

"Locations are determined based on historical intelligence on illegal dumping activities," Kailey Barron wrote in an email, adding the cameras would be operational by next summer.

Eadie said he had some clue, but withheld comment.

"Really don't want to give people a lead as to where these (cameras) will be installed."

As for the cameras themselves, the city is requiring the equipment be capable of recording in all-lighting conditions, including total darkness, and feature a motion sensor that can be triggered to capture high-resolution images or videos up to 100 feet away.

Despite the fact the cameras may catch more than just dumpsters in action, Eadie said privacy issues are not a concern.

"If you're not doing anything illegal, what's the problem?" he said, adding there are a multitude of cameras installed throughout the city. "Bylaw enforcement is not the Winnipeg Police Service."

Barron also said that all areas where cameras may be active would have proper signage.

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POLITICS

Promised tax cuts are on their way

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The Liberal government is forging ahead with its plan to raise taxes on the rich and cut taxes for middle-income earners — despite the fiscal impact on federal coffers.

The Liberal campaign platform said the tax changes would be revenue neutral, but the government admitted this week that they won't be; they will cost the federal treasury $1.2 billion annually.

Asked about the $1.2 billion gap on Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters there were different analyses during the campaign of how much the measures were going to cost and bring in.

The Liberals promised to raise taxes from 29 per cent to 33 per cent on incomes more than $200,000, and lower the tax rate from 22 per cent to 20.5 per cent on incomes between $44,000 and $89,000.

"That is what we are doing, and that is what we're committed to doing," Trudeau said. "It's not just good for middle-class Canadians to get more money in their pockets every paycheque, it's also good for fighting against the income inequality that continues to be a problem for growth in Canada."

Finance Minister Bill Morneau has said the Liberals are facing a slower economy and a worse-than-expected fiscal environment handed over from the former Conservative government.

"We have inherited a situation that is more challenging than what was foreseen in the budget," he said on Monday.

A ways and means motion detailing the changes passed the House of Commons 230-95 on Wednesday.

Trudeau TRACKER

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IN BRIEF

Duffy: Colleague told him expense claims OK
On his second day of testimony, Sen. Mike Duffy said a senior Conservative colleague told him to file expense claims indicating he lived primarily in P.E.I. in order to insulate himself from criticism he wasn't qualified to represent the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada criticized in Paris
The Climate Action Network International awarded Canada a second place "fossil of the day" award today at the COP21 climate summit, citing the reluctance of Canadian negotiators to have compensation for weather destruction in poor countries included in the final Paris agreement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec's assisted dying law comes into effect
Quebec's health minister says legislation on assisted dying will become law on Thursday after a court ruling Wednesday afternoon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Immigration Minister John McCallum speaks about Canada's plan to settle 25,000 Syrian refugees. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Syrian refugees to begin arriving

IMMIGRATION

'It will be a great day,' Trudeau says

About 300 Syrians are expected to arrive in Canada by Saturday as the long-awaited, first flights under the Liberal plan to resettle thousands of refugees from the war-torn region finally touch down.

The first aircraft is scheduled to land Thursday evening in Toronto, with a second flight arriving Saturday in Montreal, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told the House of Commons during question period.

"Resettling refugees demonstrates our commitment to Canadians and to the world that Canada understands that we can and must do more," he said.

"It will be a great day."

While just over 400 refugees have arrived since the new government was sworn in on Nov. 4, Thursday marks the start of a program that's been weeks in the making, as officials in Canada and overseas have scrambled to help the Liberals meet a campaign promise to resettle 25,000 people.

Initially, the promise was to bring all of them in by year's end, but the government was forced to spread the commitment over a longer time period because of the logistics.

The first group of refugees will fly to Canada on military planes, but the government says the rest of the flights scheduled for December are likely to be privately chartered aircraft.

The first 300 arrivals are among 10,000 privately sponsored refugees the government is seeking to welcome by Dec. 31.

Those with sponsors in the Toronto or Montreal areas will be told where and when to meet their new hosts, while those destined for other communities across Canada will stay overnight in their arrival cities before moving on the next day.

> **"Resettling refugees demonstrates ... that Canada understands that we can and must do more."**
> PM Justin Trudeau

By the end of February, the government is itself hoping to resettle 15,000 refugees, to be initially spread among 36 different cities where agencies have agreements for resettlement services. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opportunity to succeed

Haidah Amirzadeh was seven months pregnant and couldn't speak English when she arrived as a refugee in Saskatoon in 1989. Zahra Darzi fled Iran with her two daughters after her husband was executed. She claimed refugee status once she arrived in Regina in 1991.

Amirzadeh is now a lawyer specializing in immigration and refugee law who teaches at the University of Saskatchewan. Darzi is an engineer working at Saskatchewan's telephone utility.

Both say they came to Canada looking for an opportunity to succeed and both seized it. As Canada prepares to bring in thousands of Syrian refugees, the women say they want to remind people that, while many will come with little, it won't take long for them to get on their feet.

"I think, especially when somebody has been in such a difficult situation for so long, when they arrive to an opportunity, they really grab onto it," says Amirzadeh. "Nobody really wants to be a burden." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Firearms by the numbers

UNITED STATES

Seven key facts about guns in America

Another U.S. mass shooting committed with powerful but legal guns. Another refusal by Congress to pass any new gun laws.

Americans' fixation with firearms is an easy target for world condemnation. Some of it, though, is based on myths, outdated information and flawed assumptions about the actual state of affairs. Here are a few surprising statistics.

This photo shows weapons carried by suspects at the scene of a shootout in San Bernardino, Calif. HANDOUT/SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 **Gun crime is way down.** High-profile mass shootings make America seem like a place where gun crime is spiralling out of control. In fact, gun crime is much less common there now than it was in the 1990s. Since 1993, the gun homicide rate has been cut in half, from seven per 100,000 people to 3.6 per 100,000, and the rate of non-deadly gun crime has dropped even more steeply.

2 **Gun ownership is at an all-time low.** Fewer U.S. households possessed guns last year than at any time in the last 40 years: 32 per cent, according to the General Social Survey. It appears that people who already owned a gun have been stocking up on more.

3 **There's strong support for gun restrictions.** Many Americans are highly supportive of specific gun-control proposals. In a Pew poll this summer, large majorities favoured mandatory background checks for people buying guns at gun shows (85 per cent), laws to prevent people with mental illnesses from buying guns (79 per cent), and a federal database to track gun sales (70 per cent).

4 **Some politicians are taking action.** When Congress refuses to do anything about guns even in the wake of mass shootings, it is easy to believe the entire American political system is doing nothing. That's not true: After the 2012 attack on a Colorado movie theatre, the state banned high-capacity magazines. Within two years of the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting, five states had expanded background checks.

5 **America is still off the charts.** The U.S. continues to have a far higher gun homicide rate than any other wealthy industrialized country. According to one study, the U.S. gun homicide rate was 20 times higher in 2003 than the combined rate of 22 other major nations. The U.S. was responsible for a remarkable 80 per cent of all gun deaths in all of the 23 countries combined.

6 **The biggest gun problem is suicide.** Suicides get far less attention than homicides, but they account for about 60 per cent of U.S. gun deaths — and rising.

7 **African-Americans are the primary victims.** African-Americans, and especially African-American men, are far more likely to be the victims of gun crime than anyone else. In 2010, for example, blacks were seven times more likely than whites to be killed in a gun homicide.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SAN BERNARDINO

Police, FBI still in dark

By the time the married couple who carried out the deadly San Bernardino, Calif., mass shooting came to the attention of police, it was far too late.

The FBI's acknowledgement that the shooters had been radicalized Muslims for "quite some time" points to the difficulty in discovering potential terrorists who keep a very low profile and shows the deadly consequences that can occur when identification comes too late.

"What this situation shows is (identification) is not a foolproof system. A hundred per cent prevention is not achievable." said David Schanzer, a Duke University public policy professor who runs a centre that studies terrorism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"It appears these people were very good at hiding their intentions."**
> Prof. David Schanzer

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Islamophobia rising in France

RACISM

Expert warns of detentions and abuse

France's state of emergency has allowed French police to conduct warrantless searches and detain people without charge — extraordinary powers that have been used to target the Muslim community, religious leaders say.

Yasser Louati is a spokesman for the Collective against Islamophobia in France. He spoke with Torstar News Service from Paris. The interview has been translated from French and edited for length and clarity.

Question: Your organization claims the state of emergency has unfairly targeted Muslims. What evidence do you have?

Answer: The raids have disproportionately targeted people of Islamic faith with overt brutality. We've collected evidence of 50 cases of abuse — and these are just the ones we know about — where police hurled racist abuse at families, women were assaulted and one even miscarried. When raids are conducted on erroneous intelligence — 90 per cent of the raids have found nothing — why humiliate people?

Q: Has there been more racism since the attacks?

A: The hate began the night of the attacks. Even before the attacks were finished, we already had death threats against Muslims and calls for revenge. Veiled women have been assaulted in front of their children — verbally, with fists and even with a box cutter.

Q: This attitude, do you see it as reflecting a bigger problem of Islamophobia, not only in France but across the western world?

A: We saw what Donald Trump said this week about banning Muslim immigration to the U.S. All I have to say is, will he ban the rich Saudis, too? I don't think so. It's just demagoguery. Donald Trump doesn't have policy, he only has punch lines.

Regarding the growing Islamophobia in the West, it's real but it's not due to the presence of Muslims. We've fabricated a Muslim problem in our society. We refuse to see Muslims as full-fledged citizens. We see them as Muslim, therefore an other, a foreigner. Muslims have been citizens of France for four generations and we continue to treat them as second-class.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **We've fabricated a Muslim problem in our society.**
> Yasser Louati

Yasser Louati, a spokesman for the Collective against Islamophobia in France, says what's happening in France is part of a growing racism in the West. COLLECTIF CONTRE L'ISLAMOPHOBIE

PARIS ATTACKS

Text reveals terrorist

It took a text from Syria to a mother in France to reveal the identity of the third killer at the Bataclan concert venue in Paris: Your son died as a martyr Nov. 13.

For four weeks, police had failed to identify the third gunman who stormed the venue along with two French Islamic extremists, killing nearly three-quarters of the total 130 people who died in the Paris attacks.

Then, about 10 days ago, Foued Mohamed-Aggad's mother in Strasbourg received a text message in English announcing her son's death "as a martyr"— a typical way the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant notifies families of casualties. She gave French police a DNA sample which showed one of her sons was killed inside the Bataclan.

The news announced Wednesday further confirms that the deadly Paris attacks were carried out largely, if not entirely, by Europeans trained by ISIL extremists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UPDATE: MIGRANT CRISIS **Smuggling boat sinks in Aegean, 12 drown, 12 missing; Greece clears out protesting migrants in the north**

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Dollarama prices creeping up

RETAIL

Discount chain says $1.25 is the new $1 — with cap rising to $4

Dollarama confirmed Wednesday what a lot of its customers already know: that the majority of items in the stores are priced above $1.25.

So the Montreal-based discount retailer — where everything originally sold for a loonie or even less when it was founded more than 20 years ago — said it will start to use $1.25 rather than a dollar as its new reference point when reporting sales and financial results.

And while its current maximum price point is $3, Dollarama will also introduce even higher-priced items of $3.50 and $4 starting in the second half of next year, chief executive Larry Rossy told analysts on a conference call.

He said many products at its 1,005 stores across Canada are still priced at a buck, but the $1.25 metric is "a better representation of our price-point range."

Montreal-based Dollarama says its higher-priced items are intended to help it adjust to the impact of the weakening Canadian dollar. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

For the three months ending Nov. 1, 59.7 per cent of sales came from prices above $1.25, compared with 54.1 per cent during the same period a year ago.

The company said the higher-priced items are intended to help it adjust to the impact of the weakening Canadian dollar.

Dollarama started increasing its prices beyond $1 about six years ago, and then introduced the $2.50 and $3 items in 2012.

A spokesperson said the new $1.25 base price point is "totally unconnected to anything happening in stores," and that items without price stickers will remain $1 as usual.

Ken Wong, marketing professor at the Smith School of Business at Queen's University, said it reminds him of how the five-and-dime stores in the 1950s eventually had to drop that moniker as costs crept up, and then they were just swallowed up by Kresge's and Woolco, then K-Mart and Walmart.

> **History has a funny way of repeating itself. No matter what business ... your prices can only be as low as your costs.**
> Ken Wong

"History has a funny way of repeating itself. No matter what business you're in, your prices can only be as low as your costs," said Wong.

Meanwhile the company — whose green and yellow signage already contains the word 'plus' beside the $1 logo to reflect higher prices — will try to stick to its cap on grocery items of $2, Rossy said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LAWSUIT

Canadian Tire sues Walmart over lights

ISTOCK

Canadian Tire is accusing Walmart of ripping off the design of its made-in-Canada clip-on Christmas lights and is demanding that the mega-retailer cease and desist.

A Federal Court claim filed by Canadian Tire alleges that Walmart worked with two Taiwanese companies to copy the construction and packaging of its Noma Quick-Clip lights.

$500,000

The amount Canadian Tire is seeking in punitive damages from Walmart.

It wants Walmart to stop selling the "unique" product due to copyright infringement, and is seeking $500,000 in punitive damages. Walmart has yet to file a statement of defence.

Earlier this week, Canadian Tire issued an unrelated safety warning to customers who purchased Christmas lights from its Holiday Collection line. It says some of the products may pose a fire and shock hazard.

Canadian Tire is recalling 12 products made by Taizhou Hongpeng Colour Lanterns that were sold between Aug. 1, 2015, and Nov. 30, 2015, Canadian Tire said.

Health Canada has previously issued warnings this year about hazards with seasonal lights that were sold at Walmart, Dollarama, The Michaels Companies, Loblaw Companies Inc., Shoppers Drug Mart and Pharmaprix. Affected brands include Life at Home, Magi Decor, Celebrate it and Danson Decor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Home of Bitcoin's likely founder raided

Australian police on Wednesday raided the home and business premises in a Sydney suburb of a man that technology news sites have claimed is the founder of virtual currency Bitcoin. Police said the searches were related to a tax investigation and not recent media reports on the virtual currency.

Technology publications Wired and Gizmodo published reports this week claiming an Australian businessman is bitcoin's likely inventor.

Since Bitcoin's birth in 2009, the identity of currency's creator has remained a mystery.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 73.72¢ (+0.12¢)

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OIL $37.16 US (–35¢)

GOLD $1,076.50 US (+$1.20)

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DOW JONES: 17,492.30 (–75.70)

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, December 10, 2015

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON HARPER'S SUCCESSOR

A majority of Conservatives will be looking for more than just a change in tone when they pick the next leader.

The exact number of Conservative supporters who held their nose to stick with Stephen Harper last October and/or who would rather have had a new leader to vote for will never be known, but based on a poll published earlier this week it was probably significant.

Designed to provide an early glimpse at the dynamics of Harper's succession, the Abacus poll suggests a majority of Conservatives will be looking for more than just a change in tone when they pick the next leader.

Over the course of the past decade, the Reform/Alliance branch of the party has dominated the Harper government. But at this early juncture, none of its leading members inspire more than tepid support among Conservative voters.

Under prominent right-of-centre champions such as Jason Kenney — Harper's go-to minister — or Saskatchewan premier Brad Wall, the party would risk being pushed back to it strongholds of Western Canada.

East of Manitoba, the dream candidate of a plurality of Conservative voters hails from the progressive-conservative side of the family, as does the runner-up.

Of the nine possible contenders put forward by Abacus, only Peter MacKay and Jean Charest, two former federal Tory leaders, enjoy double-digit support in every region of the country.

But Charest has made it clear that he is not contemplating a return to federal politics and his diehard fans seem to have accepted that his no is final.

Based on the Abacus poll, staying on the sidelines is a good call. Only in his home-province would Charest be competitive with MacKay. In Ontario and Atlantic Canada, his former caucus colleague would beat him hands down.

By comparison, Wall barely registers outside of the Prairies. Ditto for Jason Kenney.

That is not to say that Harper's succession is MacKay's for the asking or even that he wants the leadership. But if he did throw his hat in the ring, he would be the prohibitive front-runner, especially in a field that will probably not even feature some of the names that tested best in the Abacus poll.

Wall will be seeking another provincial mandate next year. He has consistently maintained that he has no interest in the federal job. Some believe that could change after the provincial election. But it is a rare premier who enters in a federal leadership campaign without a reasonable certainty of victory, and no such assurance would be on offer to Wall in the case of the Conservative Party.

Kenney has more solid support within the party than the poll indicates. But it is clear his high ministerial profile and a reputation for efficiency have not translated into popularity. Some of his Kenney's closest allies believe that the former minister could win the party, but doubt he could win the country. They note that there is a reason there has never been an openly socially conservative leader at the helm of a major federal party.

It will be weeks and possibly months before the actual lay of the post-Harper land takes shape.

Ontario MP Lisa Raitt ranks best among the other former Harper team members whose names were put to the test. In the months to come, her critic role in the Commons will pit her against Finance Minister Bill Morneau; the pair is already emerging as the duo to watch in question period. But Raitt has yet to demonstrate the same proficiency in French, and no leader who was not fluently bilingual has met with electoral success federally since Lester B. Pearson resigned in the sixties.

By all indications, the Conservatives are not going to rush to a leadership vote. Based on the Conservative performance in question period this week, the interim team Rona Ambrose leads is well up to the job of keeping a rookie Liberal government on its toes in the House.

It will be weeks and possibly months before the actual lay of the post-Harper land takes shape. And although recent experience shows that running to a distant also-ran finish ends up being little more than a vanity pursuit, some of the contenders will only join the race to raise their profiles.

The greater the number of contenders, the higher the odds will be that one of this week's dark horses ends up the winner. Joe Clark and Stéphane Dion were both unlikely beneficiaries of a crowded leadership field.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Self-tanner sales pale

The decades-long trend of both women and men looking suspiciously sun-kissed in Siberian climates seems to finally be on the wane. A study by British market-research firm Mintel has found sales of self-tanning lotion are sinking like the sun on a December afternoon; a shift that is actually kind of retro. While in past centuries parasol-toting ladies prized their milky complexions — it indicated that you hadn't been out in the fields like some kind of peasant — Coco Chanel is credited with popularizing the lightly toasted look in the 1920s. It became the beauty ideal from then on. Interestingly, Chanel's rosy glow was also meant to broadcast that she lived a life of leisure on the French Riviera and didn't need to work, but by that time the workplace was more likely to be a typing pool than a potato farm. SOURCE: THE SCOTSMAN

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Don't be PC. Say it: Donald Trump supporters are racist.

Donald J. Trump is right about one thing. We're far too politically correct.

So politically correct, in fact, that we can't even admit his followers are racist.

We're happy to heap scorn on the man himself. See how much of the world united to denounce his call to ban Muslims from entering the U.S. Witness Vancouver and Toronto seek to rebrand his real estate properties, lest a bigot's name be found in their skyline. Watch the Daily Show dub him "White ISIS" or WISIS.

But when it comes to Trump's devotees, we take a much different tack.

Pundits are hand-wringing trying to explain his continued lead in the Republican nomination polls, and seem to take comfort in the fact that more Republicans don't support Trump than do. Reporters covering his rallies noted this week that Trump seems to beguile his supporters with humour and flattery. Psychologists are positing Trump's fans are swayed mostly by his defiant stance.

But few are blaming Trump's supporters for their culpability in spreading anti-Muslim, anti-Mexican and anti-Chinese vitriol. And even fewer are explaining his popularity by calling a spade a racist.

Conservatives, of course, don't want to alienate their own, especially when they're courting votes.

Liberals have no excuse. Except possibly the fear of backlash, and I'll admit to being worried myself. I like the various explanations offered for Trump's popularity, because they make me feel better about my fellow humans.

If they're not hate-filled, it's easier to keep up my whole humanistic world view, never mind my Catholic one. We're supposed to be accepting of all. We also tend to believe people hold different opinions only because we haven't quite got to them yet.

I might, if I met them in a coffee shop, like a Donald Trump supporter without knowing they were one, and I wouldn't want to piss off my new brew buddy.

But the stakes, in the case of Trump's rally-goers, are far too high for all that.

Anti-Muslim sentiment is rising. And it doesn't need a boost from the most widely covered politician in the U.S., if not the world.

So let's be honest: Anti-Muslim sentiment is only getting that boost because Trump's disciples are racist. Not confused. Not afraid. Not manipulated by flattery. Racist.

I think it's very, very sad, yet important, and probably not politically correct, but I don't care, eh Trump? Otherwise, it's going to get worse and worse, folks. We have no choice. So, Donald, how's that for politically incorrect?

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metro LIFE
Your essential daily news

It's that time of year when books critics sort through the piles on their desks in search of the best of the best. While you can't go wrong with any of the titles on this year's Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlist — especially Andre Alexis' Fifteen Dogs, which took the award — plenty of other Canadian 2015 releases are worth picking up as a present, or for that coveted holiday-vacation read **SUE CARTER** FOR METRO

Every gift in the book

The Devil You Know, Elisabeth di Mariaffi (Patrick Crean Editions)
Elisabeth di Mariaffi's first thriller, set in 1993 just prior to the arrest of serial rapist Paul Bernardo, introduces a confident new voice who perfectly capturing the paranoia and fear of the time through the eyes of a young reporter.

The Social History of Ink, Ted Bishop (Viking)
Alberta professor Ted Bishop travels the world to uncover the cultural history of ink. Who knew that the ubiquitous ballpoint pen has such a sordid legacy of murder, rivalries and intrigue?

Kim Echlin, Under the Visible Life (Hamish Hamilton)
The power of music and the isolation of being an outsider makes Kim Echlin's story about a decades-long friendship between two women one of the year's most overlooked novels.

Beyond the Pale: Folklore, Family, and the Mystery of Our Hidden Genes, Emily Urquhart (HarperCollins)
After giving birth to a daughter with albinism, Emily Urquhart uses her background as a folklorist to uncover various stories and fables in hopes of better understanding the cultural narratives surrounding the genetic disorder.

If I Fall, If I Die, Michael Christie (McClelland & Stewart)
Vancouver author and former pro-skateboarder Michael Christie draws on his personal history in this novel about a young boy in Thunder Bay who longs to go outside and leave the safety of his agoraphobic mother.

Sidewalk Flowers, JonArno Lawson and Sydney Smith (Groundwood Books)
Sure, it's technically a kids' picture book, but JonArno Lawson's wordless poem, about a young girl observing the world while her distracted dad carries on their walk, is a poignant reminder for grown-ups to slow down. Warning: Sydney Smith's gorgeous illustrations may draw a few tears.

Stalin's Daughter, Rosemary Sullivan (HarperCollins)
History buffs will love Rosemary Sullivan's meaty biography of Svetlana Alliluyeva, the only daughter of the tyrant dictator Joseph Stalin, who spent her long, fascinating life trying to escape her father's name.

Russell Smith, Confidence (Biblioasis)
It has been nearly 20 years since Russell Smith burst onto the literary scene heralding a new generation of writers more interested in what was happening at the cocktail bar than the CanLit settings of yore. Smith's short stories prove that he is still an astute observer of urban mores.

The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl, Sue Goyette (Gaspereau Books)
Sue Goyette's powerful poetry collection doubles as documentary as she tries to make sense of the true-life story of a couple tried for murder after their young child died from a prescribed drug cocktail meant to treat ADHD and bipolar disorder.

James Grainger, Harmless (McClelland & Stewart)
It's no surprise that Atom Egoyan has already optioned James Grainger's debut novel. This taut, economically written thriller about a friends' weekend away contains some gory twists, and doubles as a clever exploration of contemporary masculinity.

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Ripley's tales hang by a head, or hair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Curiosity drives popular oddities series, archivist says

Dean Lisk
Metro | Canada

At what point does a person realize they can dislocate their eyeball from its socket, or swallow a sword, or contort their body so it fits into a suitcase, or even lift a washing machine with only their hair?

"I think sword swallowing is lame. That is where I draw the line. But, how you learn you can swallow a sword is one of the greatest mysteries of my life," says Edward Meyer, vice president of exhibits and archives at Ripley's Entertainment Inc.

He had a chance to learn the answer a number of years ago when he met the man who holds a record for the most swords swallowed at once, the longest sword swallowed and who can even bend over and bow while performing the trick.

"I asked him, I'd wanted to ask a sword swallower this for 20 years, how did you learn to do this? And, I kid you not, he was a juggler and he found out the sword swallower in the show was earning twice his salary. He decided he was going to learn to do it. He walked into an army surplus store, took a sword off the wall and shoved it down his throat.

"He hurt himself, but realized what the trick was right away, and said, 'Hey I can do this.'"

Sword swallowing is one of the believable — even though you may be taken aback by it — facts included in Ripley's Believe It Or Not! Eye-Popping Oddities, the 12th and newest in a series that examines some of the odd, unusual and unbelievable.

Eye-Popping Oddities is the 12th book in the Ripley's Believe it Or Not! series. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

"It's human curiosity, in a nutshell" Meyer says of Ripley's appeal. As the archivist, he takes care of the more than 35,000 exhibits in the entertainment chain's 32 "odditoriums" around the world, more than 50,000 photographs, and the 120,000 cartoons from its 98-years (and counting) of newspaper-syndicated columns.

"People want to know about the rest of the world and their place in it. And, if they are odd or eccentric, they want to think they have a big place in it, and that 15 minutes of fame that Andy (Warhol) promised everybody is a big motivator."

Many of the things you will find in the book, including a young woman who can lift a washing machine by her hair while hanging upside down, are submitted by the public. It's a tradition which began with Robert Ripley, who created his first Believe It or Not! cartoon for The New York Globe in 1918.

"He realized that people were his greatest source of information," says Meyer. "He said give me your stuff and I will make you famous, that is what it boils down to."

TOO WEIRD EVEN FOR RIPLEY'S

Editor's pick
Meyer's favourite picture in the book is from 1931 and features an animal trainer, who goes by the nickname "Cheerful," hanging from an elephant's mouth like a human pendulum.

"The faith in his training skills that this elephant isn't going to crush him, isn't going to sneeze on him or inhale him, or anything else, is mind blowing."

What readers want
While every book Ripley's puts out is different, Meyer says every edition includes a chapter on food.

"I don't get it," he says. "I've probably eaten more weird food than anybody else you will ever meet, but I don't like looking at pictures of weird foods. Give me the duck head, and I will try it, but I don't need to stare at it."

What you won't find
If it's 100 per cent true, Ripley's wants it. But, there are some things they won't touch, says Meyer.

"We shy away from nudity — totally away from pornography. We aren't really keen on aliens or 'witchcraft.' If you can't prove it — that doesn't mean we aren't interested in it — but if you can't prove it, we are not going to put our name on it." DEAN LISK/METRO

PRAISE FOR KAREN SWAN

"Deliciously glamorous, irrestistibly romantic"

Hello! Magazine

PUBLISHERS GROUP CANADA

ANGEL CATBIRD

Margaret Atwood pens her first graphic novel

Venerable Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood is expanding her repertoire in an unlikely direction as the author of a three-part superhero graphic novel.

Atwood will write the series entitled Angel Catbird for Dark Horse Comics, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary next year.

Atwood contacted the publication — based in Milwaukie, Ore. — on the advice of Hope Nicholson, who recently ran a successful Kickstarter campaign to create The Secret Loves of Geek Girls. Atwood contributed some original comic drawings to that all-female non-fiction anthology.

> **There will be something for everyone and a lot of cat puns too**
> Editor Daniel Chabon

"Margaret brought her project to Dark Horse and we talked about it and we're very, very excited and quickly got it approved (by) her and started working on it," editor Daniel Chabon said.

"There'll be an antagonist in the story and a love interest. There'll be something different for everyone and a lot of cat puns, too. It's fantastic," Chabon said.

"This is a great book to add to our line. Of course if it does well, we'd like to do more," Chabon added.

The series will be illustrated by another Canadian, Vancouver-based artist Johnnie Christmas, with the first part set for release in September 2016.

Chabon acknowledged the challenge of working with an author of Atwood's calibre.

"It's funny because (Atwood) has been writing forever so it's a little intimidating sometimes to try to give her notes and stuff like that. It's like, 'how on Earth am I going to give notes to Margaret Atwood?'" Chabon said.

"But she (Atwood) is very receptive to notes. It's been a pleasure so far being able to work with her," he added. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

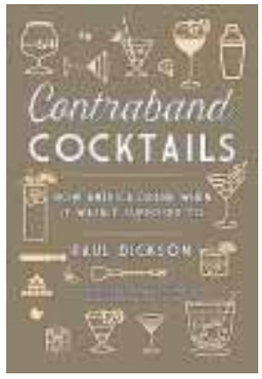
PULP INSPIRED
Editor Daniel Chabon described the project as "a pulp-inspired superhero story," about a scientist whose DNA becomes fused with an owl and a cat.

3 PICKS FOR THE BOOK LOVERS ON YOUR LIST

Everyone knows the best gifts are the ones that are thoughtful and a wink to the gift recipient's personality. Forget those generic gift cards and go for one of these fun books. Whether you're looking for something for your office Secret Santa party, for the guy or girl you're kind of into, or for your best friend, you're sure to win some points with one of these picks. **EMILY LAURENCE FOR METRO**

1 Contraband Cocktails by Paul Dickson

Give your favourite drinking buddy a recipe book for cocktails made popular during Prohibition. Just because consuming alcohol was illegal didn't stop people from drinking; there were over 32,000 speakeasies in New York City alone. Author Paul Dickson serves up some fascinating history and photographs of the Prohibition Era, and lots of recipes to keep you warm through the winter.

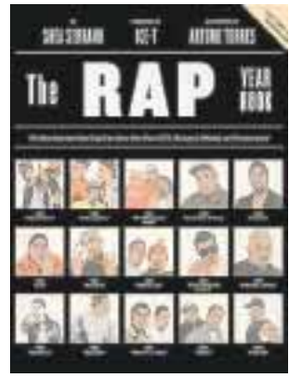


2 Picador Modern Classics

These pocket-sized titles are stunning, and even though they're tiny, the font isn't ridiculously small or hard to read. Books as good as Jeffrey Eugenides' The Virgin Suicides and Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson.

3 The Rap Year Book by Shea Serrano

This new book highlights the pivotal moments in rap from the past 36 years. Biggie, Tupac, Sugarhill Gang, Drake — they're all in here. And with an intro by Ice-T, colorful pages packed with quizzes, lyric maps, artist portraits and infographics, it's way cooler than any history book you've ever seen.



BOOK BRIEFS

Nonfiction prize long list announced

Twelve titles have made the long list for the 2016 RBC Taylor Prize for nonfiction, including one by a former winner and another that's already won a major award.

Toronto journalist Ian Brown, who won the $25,000 Taylor prize in 2010 for his memoir The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Search for His Disabled Son, made the cut this time for Sixty: The Beginning of the End, or the End of the Beginning? (Random House Canada). Also on the list is Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva (HarperCollins Publishers) by Toronto's Rosemary Sullivan, which won the $60,000 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction in October.

Another title on the list is Road Trip Rwanda: A Journey Into the New Heart of Africa (Viking Canada) by Calgary's Will Ferguson, who won the 2012 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his novel 419.

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Trumbo leads the pack

AWARDS SEASON

Screen Actors Guild Awards highlight 2016 Oscar hopefuls

Trumbo landed three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations. HANDOUT

Straight Outta Compton is up for best ensemble cast. JAIMIE TRUEBLOOD/UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA AP

The Hollywood blacklist drama Trumbo scored a leading three Screen Actors Guild Awards nominations on Wednesday, and sleeper contenders Beasts of No Nation and Straight Outta Compton entered the awards conversation in a real way when both were nominated for best ensemble drama.

Beasts of No Nation star Idris Elba was also nominated for best supporting actor, as well as for his role in TV's Luther. Other best ensemble nominees included Spotlight, which is emerging as the strongest candidate for best picture so far this season; Trumbo; and the housing bubble dramedy The Big Short.

The 22nd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards honouring the best film and television performances of the year will be presented Jan. 30 and broadcast life from Los Angels on TNT and TBS.

Starry ensemble casts left out of the SAG nominations included Ridley Scott's The Martian, Quentin Tarantino's The Hateful Eight and David O. Russell's Joy.

While Straight Outta Compton was a box office and critical hit, its award season prospects were unknown. On Monday, the African-American Film Critics Association named the N.W.A drama their best of the year, but it's been mostly overlooked by other critics' awards.

The nominations helped bring a murky awards season into a bit more focus, and SAG's choices highlighted a few underdog performances.

Leading female performance nominees included Cate Blanchett (Carol), Brie Larson (Room) and Saoirse Ronan (Brooklyn), all of whom have dominated awards buzz, but also Sarah Silverman for the depression indie I Smile Back, and Helen Mirren for Woman in Gold, about an elderly Jewish woman looking to reclaim art once stolen by the Nazis. Mirren was also nominated for a supporting performance for Trumbo.

The lead actor nominees were a bit more expected, with recognition for Bryan Cranston (Trumbo), Johnny Depp (Black Mass), Leonardo DiCaprio (The Revenant), Michael Fassbender (Steve Jobs), and Eddie Redmayne (The Danish Girl).

In the supporting category, Christian Bale was nominated for The Big Short, Mark Rylance for the Cold War thriller Bridge of Spies, Michael Shannon for playing a predatory real estate agent in 99 Homes and nine-year-old Vancouver native Jacob Tremblay was acknowledged for playing a child in captivity in Room.

Supporting actress contenders included London, Ont.'s Rachel McAdams (Spotlight), Kate Winslet (Steve Jobs), Alicia Vikander (The Danish Girl) and Rooney Mara (Carol). Mara and Vikander both have significant onscreen time in their respective movies, which has led some awards prognosticators to criticize their supporting actress campaigns.

Nominees are selected by separate movie and TV nominating panels, each comprised of over 2,000 randomly selected SAG members.

Many members of the SAG movie panel also vote for the Academy Awards and as a result, the SAG nominees have traditionally served as a helpful indicator of potential Oscar acting nominees. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Peak Meta has arrived

The power of TV is constantly referred to on The Grinder. HANDOUT

THE GRINDER, SEASON ONE, EPISODE THREE (CITY/FOX)

The Sanderson family — put-upon lawyer Stewart (Fred Savage), his wife Debbie (Mary Elizabeth Ellis), his brusque dad Dean Sr. (William Devane), and his heartthrob ex-TV-star brother Dean Jr. (Rob Lowe) are discussing Ray Donovan. (That's Ray Donovan the real TV series, which airs on a rival network, Showtime.)

This entire Grinder episode has revolved around someone erasing Ray Donovan from the family PVR. The words "Ray Donovan" have been uttered six times. Finally, they're watching the show. "Who's that?" Dean Sr. asks. "Ray Donovan!" the others holler.

Welcome to Peak Meta. The Grinder is the name of this show. It's also the name of the show-within-the-show that Dean Jr. starred in (and the name of his character).

It's a prodigal son story: To Stewart's eternal exasperation, people take Dean Jr. seriously as a lawyer simply because he played one on TV. The power and ubiquity of TV are referred to constantly. And of course, all four actors are known from now-iconic series The Wonder Years (Savage), The West Wing (Lowe), It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (Ellis) and Knot's Landing (Devane).

Not long ago, meta-TV was an erudite concept found only on haute-cable shows. (Who remembers the telefilm The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom, which made HBO hip in 1993?) Today it's as dated as the viewers who dived out of the way when they first saw Lumiere's train movie. Now that we barely exist off screen, meta is a sitcom punchline, the TV equivalent of Normcore.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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GOSSIP BRIEFS

Dad on the dating market

One Direction member Louis Tomlinson tried — and apparently failed — to make things work with girlfriend Briana Jungwirth, but he's since broken up with her, according to Life & Style. Oh, and Jungwirth is due to give birth to his kid next month.

"He dumped her," a source says, adding that the pregnant makeup artist didn't see it coming. "They had been trying to work things out the past few weeks during his One Direction tour. He even introduced Briana to his mom."

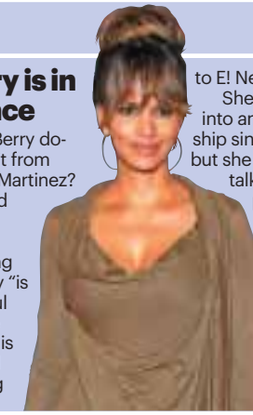
Maybe that didn't go so well? Anyway, lest he be labeled a complete wanker, Tomlinson has "promised to love and support their child financially." NED EHRBAR/METRO

Justin Bieber's Instagram crush

Justin Bieber shared an image of a mystery girl on his Instagram with the caption "Who is this!!" — which was quickly answered by his fans who, much like the flying monkeys of the Wicked Witch of the West, set out to fetch the account info of the girl for Bieber. Turns out she's a 17-year-old from Spain named Cindy Kimberly, according to BuzzFeed.

"I so do not know how to deal with this," Kimberly wrote in an Instagram post. Bieber, likely scared off by the fact that his Instagram crush is only 17, carried on with his life (posting pictures of his Playboy bunny-themed pants, and a car). MATTHEW LEE/METRO

Halle Berry is in a good place



So how is Halle Berry doing since her split from husband Olivier Martinez? Funny you should ask.

Less than two months after filing for divorce, Berry "is in a very peaceful and happy place at this time" and is dating "here and there," according to E! News.

She hasn't gotten into another relationship since her breakup but she has been talking to a few people very lightly and going out when she has time. She enjoys being single and doing her own thing." NED EHRBAR/METRO

MUSIC

Only copy of Wu Tang album goes unplayed

> **I could be convinced to listen to it earlier if Taylor Swift wants to hear it or something like that.**
> Martin Shkreli

Obviously there was no chance any of us were going to be the eventual owner of Once Upon a Time in Shaolin, Wu Tang Clan's new album for which they only made one physical copy, but I didn't expect this.

The new owner is Martin Shkreli, the pharmaceutical CEO who rose to infamy earlier this year for jacking up the price of an AIDS medication to $750 a pill.

And what's even worse? He apparently hasn't even listened to it yet, as he's saving it for when he needs a pick-me-up.

"I could be convinced to listen to it earlier if Taylor Swift wants to hear it or something like that," Shkreli says, according to Bloomberg. "But for now, I think I'm going to kind of save it for a rainy day."

You monster. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Trudeau: Political pinup romances Vogue readers

PUBLISHING

Sure the pics are sexy, but they could be even steamier

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

PHOTO CREDITS: SCREENSHOTS FROM VOGUE.COM/FACEBOOK/PINTEREST

So Vogue has gone and included newly minted Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in its January 2016 issue, along with a striking portrait photo by Norman Jean Roy that dolls him up like an old Hollywood star. A sexy embrace with his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, is also captured by Roy. In Canada, the photos and articles were widely shared on social media (pictured).

Now, discussions of Trudeau's looks are nothing new, but this feels like a whole new level. But did we miss a major opportunity? Imagine, for a moment, that Vogue had gone with their usual shooter for all things easy on the eyes, Annie Liebowitz. We could've maybe had something like her infamous photo shoot with Miley Cyrus for Vanity Fair.

And now that the image of Justin Trudeau coquettishly wrapped in just a bed sheet is planted firmly in your head, I'll leave you to enjoy the rest of your day.

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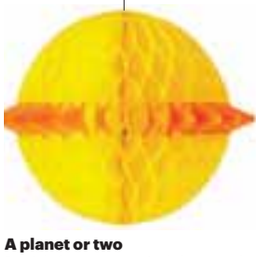
metro HOME
Your essential daily news

For the ultimate Star Wars fan: Millennium Falcon bed from Pottery Barn Kids

STARRY NIGHT CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS FROM OUTER SPACE



A planet or two
Banish from your mind those ugly reproductions of the solar system in science class. This paper planet will give your Christmas tree an air of elegance. (15 pounds/$31 CDN from the Conran Shop)

A beaded astronaut
Who said that space explorers lacked style? Not the Conran Shop, which has dressed its astronaut in beads. (10 pounds/$21 CDN)

A Star Wars tree
Star Wars is everywhere, in store windows, on TV, and even on your Christmas tree. You'll have to choose between the light side of the Force with this handsome Yoda in resin from Walmart, or the dark side with the shadowy Darth Vader. ($7.47 US/$10 CDN each)

Some festive robots
We can't have a space theme without a robot. These cute ones are multi-coloured and sparkly. ($21.50 US/$29 CDN for a set of three from Paper Chase)

A starry sky
And lastly let's not forget the star, which decorates our tree, but is also a celestial body floating in space. ($3 US/$4 CDN from Paper Chase)
AFP

How to get festive in a hurry

TIPS

Six ways to decorate for the holidays in 20 minutes

With the holidays around the corner, it's time to add a little festive decor to your home. But not everyone has the space, time or desire to fit a big tree or lots of holiday tchotchkes in their home. Here are a handful of ways to add simple holiday vignettes that are small-space-friendly in 20 minutes or less.

1 Greenery on a mantle art
Bring the outdoors in.

Gather some vases and fill with fresh winter greenery for an eye-catching mantle display. We used milk glass vases from a thrift shop but you can get a similar look using clear vases or by upcycling jars or bottles.

No mantle, but still love the look? Place the vases on open shelving or as a centrepiece on a holiday table.

Keep greenery fresh by cutting the stems at an angle before placing in water. Freshen water daily.

2 Glass on a shelf
Turn a pretty glass into a miniature winter wonderland — a snow globe, a tiny bottle-brush tree and a sweet little fawn look whimsical inside a glass or jam jar.

Make faux snow by using salt or sugar. Then add a fawn and a tree.

You can buy bottlebrush trees at craft stores (or even dollar stores) and the tiny fawns can be found at bakery supply stores and on Etsy.

3 Tray on a side table
A coffee table or side table is a great place to have fun adding some holiday decor. Gather seasonal items together on a tray. They don't have to be Christmas decorations. Think outside of the holiday box.

Try stacking some vintage books in pretty shades of green, adding a snow globe, some candles and a touch of greenery.

Vintage books can be found at thrift shops such as Goodwill or The Salvation Army. Add pieces with varying height, and layer with textures using natural elements like pine cones to keep it visually interesting.

Anchor it all on a tray to keep it organized and stylish.

4 Surprise bouquet
Tie some fresh greenery together with floral wire to create a mini bouquet.

Add velvet ribbon and tie it to the handle of a cabinet or a doorknob. So simple — yet so effective.

Little details like this add a special touch. That's what the season's all about.

5 Chalkboard on a wall
Go vertical.

Turn a chalkboard into a tree and trim it with holiday cookie cutters. String some baker's twine or ribbon through a cookie cutter and hang it on your wall using Washi (pretty paper) tape.

No chalkboard? Use Washi tape to create the outline of a tree on an empty wall and decorate with cookie cutter ornaments.

6 Decor by candlelight
Take a set of plain white candles and embellish them with touches of holiday greenery tied with string.

To help the greenery stay in place, use a little glue or spray adhesive and then wrap the string around the candle.

Be sure to use these candles in a place you can keep an eye on them.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No time (or space) for a big tree? Sometimes a little fresh greenery and cookie-cutter "ornaments" are all you need. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A sleigh full of comfort, health

Sometimes it's the little things that add joy to our homes, whether it's creating a good night's sleep or comfort underfoot. Here's a few practical gifts that will make the recipient feel great all year long.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

1 HoMedics Deep Sound Machine
Drown out street noise and late-night commotion from the neighbours. $115, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

2 Ella Comfort Recliner
Put your feet up in style for improved circulation and a better-looking living room. From $4,000, CasaLife.com

3 Linen Granite Grey Mat
Pure comfort under the chef's feet. $120, GelPro.com

4 Iluminage Pillowcase With Copper Oxide
You could look younger in just a few months by sleeping on these pillowcases. $75, Sephora.com

5 Go Sport Blender
Looks good, takes up little counter space. $40, HamiltonBeach.ca

6 Lavender Vanilla Aromatherapy Pillow Mist
An all-natural way to help you fall asleep. $10, BathAndBodyWorks.com

7 Moen Engage 6-Spray WaterSense Hand Shower
An easy hook-up to an existing spout means turning an ordinary shower into a space experience. $75, Lowes.ca

8 Withings Smart Body Analyzer
Track more than just the holiday shortbread cookies you've eaten. $150, iStoreWorld.com

TIPS

Moving into a new home? Get some Apartment Therapy

You could be forgiven for thinking that Apartment Therapy isn't exactly beginner-friendly. For as warm and inviting as the popular site is, it pretty much invented the genre of house porn. Each featured space is more gorgeous than the next, right down to the perfectly curated clutter and suspiciously well-groomed dogs.

That said, founder and "apartment therapist" Maxwell Ryan firmly believes that you don't need a master's degree in interior design to create a beautiful, inspiring space of your own. His latest book, Apartment Therapy: Complete + Happy Home, starts at the very, very beginning — before you've signed a lease or written a down payment check, when hanging that gallery wall is the absolute least of your concerns.

Want to go home to one of the swoon-worthy abodes featured in the book's second section? Start by taking Ryan's first-stage tips.

THE FIRST 24 HOURS
Take it easy the night of the move — but the one thing you should attend to ASAP? The smoke alarm. Check the batteries before you even put sheets on the bed.

First night in a new place: Forget breaking out the cookware — splurge a little and order in to celebrate, says Apartment Therapy site founder Maxwell Ryan. ISTOCK

1. Shop discerningly

Before you sign anything, pay close attention to the big picture, not simply the space itself. A big red flag for renters? When the apartment looks nice, but the building's common areas are in disrepair. "This can mean that only the cosmetics of the space are being kept up, but the maintenance of what you can't see might be lacking and potentially cause problems," says Ryan. If you're buying, take a good, long look at both the block and the area. "Think about the health of the surrounding neighborhood, not just the piece of property you are considering," he cautions. "How do the homes around the home you might buy look? Are there more than one or two for sale? Are the businesses close by ones that you would consider using? Do they seem like they are thriving?"

2. Move smart

Moving should be exciting, not panic-attack-inducing. To cut down on the stress, plan ahead, and plan for the worst. "Take an extra day or two off from work right around moving day," suggests Ryan. "Last-minute packing will be less stressful, and running errands for the things that you end up needing for the new place — that always crop up, no matter what — will be much more enjoyable when you aren't rushed or exhausted after a day at work."

3. Decorate slowly

Although moving is a great opportunity to explore your personal style and create a beautiful living space, don't rush anything. "You want to take your time and shop thoughtfully," says Ryan. "It's always best to live in a place for a bit before making any major design decisions or purchases so you aren't tempted to start scooping up things impulsively that might not make you happy long-term." METRO U.S.

TIME WARP

Ryan's advice for furniture shoppers: "The style of a space and the style of your furniture and decor can be opposites," he says. "In fact, sometimes the push and pull between eras is exactly what makes an interior interesting and memorable. Modern furnishings in a room with vintage architectural details is fabulous, just as antique pieces can be in a streamlined, crisp, contemporary home."

Welcome to a well-rounded community

Bridgwater Trails was carefully planned to give residents access to a rich, bustling community.

Bridgwater Trails is the fourth and newest neighbourhood to be developed as part of the Neighbourhoods of Bridgwater. Located in the southwest of Winnipeg, with east access on Arbour Meadow Gate off Waverley Street, and north access on south Kenaston Boulevard at Bishop Grandin Boulevard, the neighbourhood will have all the services, shopping and recreation residents will need.

"Bridgwater Trails will be a great place to live whether you're a single or couple looking for your first place, you're just starting your family, or you're more established or an empty nester looking for a great place to downsize," says Dwayne Rewniak Executive Director of Housing Delivery and Land Development at Manitoba Housing.

The diverse buyers in the neighbourhood will be reflected by a diverse array of amenities nearby. Bridgwater Centre is a mixed-use neighbourhood that will include a mix of residential, retail and office uses in a dense urban environment. Bridgwater Centre currently includes a number of completed townhouse units, a Red River Co-op gas bar and car wash, and a Save On Foods grocery store now under construction and expected to open fall of 2016.

Shopping is at your fingertips at the Town Centre, currently under development. Perhaps you're picking up a missing ingredient for your holiday baking at one of the nearby grocery stores. Or maybe you're getting new home supplies at a major retail store — many will be within reach. The boutiques nearby will provide an appealing place to pick up a gift for someone special.

CONTRIBUTED

The neighbourhood has fast-food and sit-down restaurants, coffee shops and pubs of all descriptions — the perfect place to meet friends and bring your guests.

When you're looking for entertainment, head to the local movie theatres to catch the latest blockbuster.

The necessities and essential services will all be here too, ensuring your safety, security and comfort. Get a check-up at the nearby medical services and pick up your prescription at the local pharmacy. Fill up and maintain your car at the local gas stations, and auto services stores. And Victoria General Hospital, Winnipeg Police Services and Fire Station #22 will be located nearby for your peace of mind.

Higher education is just around the corner at the University of Manitoba.

"Residents at Bridgwater Trails will have all the amenities they need just steps from their front door," Rewniak says.

LIFE HERE IS A WALK IN THE PARK

Surrounding green space is just as important to a home as its interiors. That's why landscaping was a critical part of the planning process at Bridgwater Trails.

A central park with a stunning fountain greets visitors as they enter the Bridgewater Trails neighbourhood — a perfect focal point for the community on those warm summer evenings and cool fall mornings. Homes along the paved walkways have a view of one of the community's eight stunning lakes, making this neighbourhood a perfect place to call home.

The landscape design was created to augment the area's natural charm, providing trees, plants, and other elements that enhance the buildings' setting within the streetscape, and providing a natural setting. It will be a beautiful environment that residents at Bridgwater Trails can use to develop an active, healthy lifestyle.

Bridgwater Trails: Where style meets substance

Design is important, no matter who you are or where you live. The single- and multi-family homes of Bridgwater Trails, a new neighbourhood development in south-west Winnipeg, will combine traditional building designs with innovative architectural features that reflect reliability and style in equal measure.

The fourth neighbourhood to be built in the area, Bridgwater Trails will feature the same quality home building and vision of the other established Bridgwater communities. With an overarching traditional architectural motif established by Winnipeg's Nadi Design, homes will feature styles and materials to create striking symmetry and detail.

Here, history matters. The first highly anticipated phase of the neighbourhood will play on the theme of "Traditional Renaissance," with the application of and careful adherence to styles including Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival, Cape Cod, Victorian, Arts and Crafts and Country.

"We've worked with our architects and home builders to impart a sense of history at Bridgwater Trails," says Dwayne Rewniak Executive Director of Housing Delivery and Land Development at Manitoba Housing. "The development will feature historical details that really give the homes an authentic feel."

Accessibility is also a major feature that will be built into the DNA of 50 per cent of the 1,200 single family homes at Bridgwater Trails, making the Bridgwater Neighbourhood one of the first new developments in Canada to feature such a large proportion of visitable homes that adapt to all residents' needs, including those with limited mobility.

Accessible details include access to a convenient main-floor washroom, easy clearance with wider hallways and a wide, clear path of travel in the house, and a no-step entrance and low-profile door threshold.

CONTRIBUTED

"This neighbourhood was designed for a diverse range of residents," says Rewniak. "We wanted to ensure they felt welcomed not only by the warmth of the community, but also by the accessibility and ease of living in the homes themselves."

BRIDGWATER

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Don't Exchange the urban lifestyle

CONTRIBUTED

Since Winnipeg's boom years, there has never been a more exciting time to be part of the city's burgeoning Exchange District.

A mix of new and established businesses, the area is abuzz with fresh concepts and experiences, making it an urban homeowner's dream. District Condominiums, a collection of character-rich, move-in ready loft condos in the heart of the Exchange is the perfect jumping-off point into the area's rich amenities.

New eateries

Opening soon in the area, Chosabi Asian Eatery will offer fast, fresh pan-Asian fare by the revered creator of Winnipeg sushi mecca, Wasabi.

In January 2016, PEG Beer Co. will offer Winnipeggers the local brew pub experience for the first time in an old warehouse on Pacific Avenue.

The List is a nightclub with a food focus coming to the Exchange in the new year, led by local celebrity chef Rob Thomas — worth visiting for its beautifully restored venue alone.

Shop 'til you drop

From today until Dec. 12, participating businesses in the Exchange District will hold their doors open longer for the Shop the Exchange event.

With each purchase at a Shop the Exchange store, you will be entered for a chance to win a grand prize of Exchange gift certificates valued at $500.

Shops like the newly opened Kit and Ace, and local brands including Lennard Taylor and celebrated local gift and stationery shop, Tiny Feast make for a fun and diverse shopping experience.

On the evenings of Dec. 11-13, visitors can take in screenings of Home Alone with accompaniment from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. It's the perfect ending to a day of amazing shopping and delicious food.

Visiting the Exchange is fun for any Winnipegger, but a lucky few call the exciting area home. If you're looking for a new home in the neighbourhood, a few move-in ready suites remain in District Condos, the beautifully renovated historic building projects at 110 James Ave. and 132 James Ave. Repurposed for modern loft living by StreetSide Developments, these homes bring buyers everything they need to live in modern convenience, all in a buzzing neighbourhood.

For more information on the available suites, visit districtcondos.ca.

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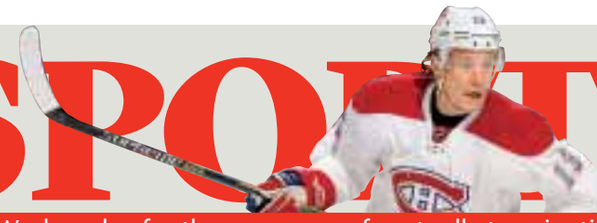


The Habs placed winger Alexander Semin on unconditional waivers Wednesday for the purposes of mutually terminating his contract

Time for Jets to recognize Hellebuyck as No. 1 goalie

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Matt Larkin

If I didn't know better, I would accuse Winnipeg Jets coach Paul Maurice of tanking. He's not, of course, but his handling of his team's crease over the past week has me scratching my head raw.

Let's look for a pattern here. Nov. 27: Jets win a crucial divisional game at Minnesota 2-1. Nov. 28: Jets drop a crucial divisional game at Colorado, 5-3. Dec. 2: Jets pummel Toronto, 6-1. Dec. 5: Jets outlast Washington 2-1 in overtime. Dec. 6: Jets lose a crucial divisional game at Chicago, 3-1.

Every win in that sequence was started by rookie goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, who has commenced his NHL career 3-0-0 with a 0.97 goals-against average and .965 save percentage.

Every loss: started by Michael Hutchinson, who is 5-7-1 with a 3.00 GAA and .904 SP on the year.

It's understandable that Hutchinson got the nod Nov. 28 since it was the second leg of a back-to-back, but why didn't Maurice turn to Hellebuyck for the Chicago tilt? Hutchinson didn't play poorly overall, but the go-ahead goal he allowed was a softy. Maybe it would've made sense to ride the hot hand in that matchup instead.

Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck snags a deflection by Washington's Brooks Laich, as the Jets' Toby Enstrom defends, during recent NHL action in Winnipeg. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

And "hot hand" doesn't really do Hellebuyck justice. He does not come out of left field. He's 22 years old, he's six-foot-four and he's been a winner wherever he's gone in his hockey career, from the NCAA Division I level to the world championship to the AHL. When a player of his ilk jumps into the league and excels, you don't write it off as a fun little story or a streak.

Hellebuyck won't finish with a .965 SP, of course, but the point is that he's more or less doing what he's supposed to do. He's supposed to be the team's starter of the future. He's supposed to be better than Hutchinson and Ondrej Pavelec. It's entirely plausible he's just better than both of them right now. So why don't the Jets start treating Hellebuyck like their starter?

Maurice likely relied on Hutchinson's strong lifetime record against the Hawks entering Sunday's game. But Hutchinson hasn't been a confident goaltender for much of this season. Hellebuyck has.

His three sparkling wins have helped pull Winnipeg back to within four points of a playoff spot. He gives the Jets the best chance to win right now.

He should start whenever the Jets aren't on back-to-backs. And if he continues to excel until Ondrej Pavelec gets healthy, GM Kevin Cheveldayoff will have a tough decision to make.

83

Saves for Connor Hellebuyck on his first 86 shots he has faced in the National Hockey League

CFL

Ticats, Lions, Esks lead all-stars

The B.C. Lions, Edmonton Eskimos and Hamilton Tiger-Cats led all teams Wednesday with five selections apiece to the CFL all-star team roster.

Receivers Adarius Bowman and Derel Walker from the Grey Cup champion Eskimos were honoured, along with defensive tackle Almondo Sewell, cornerback John Ojo and defensive back Aaron Grymes.

Lions offensive tackle Jovan Olafioye earned his fifth career CFL all-star team selection. Other B.C. players included linebacker Adam Bighill, running back Andrew Harris, receiver Emmanuel Arceneaux and punter Richie Leone.

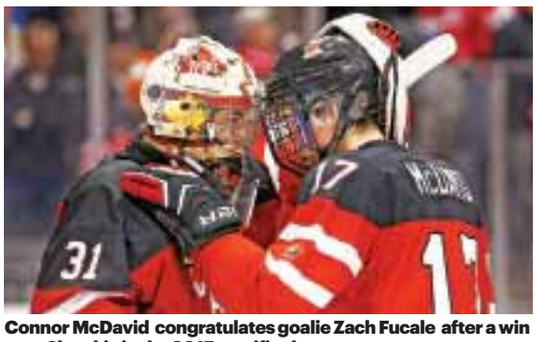
Defensive players led the way for the Tiger-Cats. Defensive tackle Ted Laurent, linebacker Simoni Lawrence and defensive backs Emanuel Davis and Craig Butler were named to the roster along with kick returner Brandon Banks.

Ottawa's Henry Burris, the league's most outstanding player, was one of four Redblacks to make the team. The Montreal Alouettes and Calgary Stampeders were next with three selections apiece.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders and Winnipeg Blue Bombers (defensive end Jamaal Westerman) had one selection each. The Toronto Argonauts did not have a league all-star this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WORLD JUNIORS

Passing the torch: 2016 team has mighty big skates to fill



Connor McDavid congratulates goalie Zach Fucale after a win over Slovakia in the 2015 semifinal. CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

When Connor McDavid returned to Air Canada Centre for the first time since winning world junior gold with Canada, he didn't let the disappointment of being injured stop him from soaking in the memories and spreading some joy.

McDavid sent former teammates a Snapchat picture of a world junior poster from one of Canada's most dominating performances in history. That undefeated Canadian team could go down as one of the best, but players are just starting to make their mark.

Ten players from that stacked group have already made their NHL debuts with a handful of others on the cusp of doing the same. McDavid is the headliner, but forwards Curtis Lazar, Anthony Duclair, Max Domi, Robby Fabbri, Jake Virtanen, Nick Ritchie and Nic Petan and defenceman Darnell Nurse are tangible evidence that the 2015 Canadian world junior team was as NHL-ready as any under-20-year-old group could be.

"The way we played that tournament, I think it was pretty apparent that there was a lot of really good hockey players on that team," Nurse said.

"To say that this many guys were going to be playing in the league this fast, I don't know if everyone expected (that). But playing alongside those guys, how professional they are, how much hard work went in, it's pretty clear why they're in the league."

Lazar, Canada's captain, was established with the Ottawa Senators before the tournament, and Duclair was a surprise member of the New York Rangers as a 19-year-old. Canada also had the No. 2 draft pick from 2014 in Reinhart and projected No. 1 pick in McDavid, so it was obvious the team would be deep.

"We just looked at the lineup and we said, 'Wow,' and we said we can do something special, for sure," said Duclair, who's now a teammate of Domi on the Arizona Coyotes. "Not every year you get a group like that, that can play in the NHL that year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Sinclair's double pushes Canada past Mexico

Christine Sinclair scored two goals and Nichelle Prince added a single as the Canadian women's soccer team defeated Mexico 3-0 on Wednesday in Brazil, at the International Tournament of Natal.

All three goals came in the first half of the opening friendly at the Arena das Dunas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skier sues in relation to concussions

Former Olympic aerials skier Veronika Bauer is suing the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association for negligence in relation to a series of concussions she suffered while active in the sport.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawrie dealt to ChiSox

The Oakland Athletics have traded third baseman Brett Lawrie of Langley, B.C., to the Chicago White Sox for right-hander J.B. Wendelken and minor-league left-hander Zack Erwin.

Lawrie hit .260 with career highs of 16 homers and 60 RBIs in his lone season for the A's.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mariners trade for Lind

The Seattle Mariners acquired first baseman Adam Lind from the Milwaukee Brewers in a trade announced Wednesday.

The Brewers are getting right-handers Daniel Missaki, Carlos Herrera and Freddy Peralta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Undefeated Spartan prepares for battle

UFC

Canadian Elias Theodorou to compete on Fight Night

Toronto middleweight Elias Theodorou has won all 11 of his fights, including both UFC bouts since emerging victorious in The Ultimate Fighter Nations show. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou has passed every MMA test thrown at him so far.

The Toronto middleweight has won all 11 of his fights, including both UFC bouts since emerging victorious in The Ultimate Fighter Nations reality TV show. Charismatic and colourful, the 27-year-old is the kind of fighter the UFC hopes can help carry the flag north of the border.

Theodorou's credentials will be put under the microscope again Thursday when he faces Thiago Santos (11-3-0) on a Fight Night card.

The show is the first of three in as many nights in Las Vegas, culminating Saturday in UFC 194 when featherweight title-holder Jose Aldo meets interim champion Conor McGregor.

Thursday's main event features Rose (Thug) Namajunas (4-2-0), ranked third among female strawweights, against No. 7 Paige (12-Gauge) VanZant (6-1-0).

Santos, a former Brazilian army paratrooper, needed just 29 seconds in June to knock former Quebec minor-league hockey enforcer Steve Bosse senseless with a kick to the head. In January, Santos stopped Andy Enz in one minute 56 seconds, hurting him with a body kick before unleashing a barrage of punches.

Theodorou calls Santos the best striker "by far" he has faced — "and someone who can pull the trigger."

> **"I want to put every single ounce of me when I'm fighting towards that goal of winning. I don't want to be sidetracked.**
>
> Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou

"A very tough opponent, who wants to take my block off," he said. But he believes the Brazilian is more vulnerable the deeper he goes into a fight. Santos' lone loss in the UFC since appearing in The Ultimate Fighter Brazil was a unanimous decision to highly touted Uriah Hall.

"I'm going to take him further and further into those deep waters and put on a pace he can't handle," said Theodorou, who has the grinding style and cardio to back that up.

Theodorou prepared for Santos by training in Long Island, N.Y., with middleweight champion Chris Weidman, who defends his title in Saturday's UFC 194 co-main event against Luke Rockhold.

The Canadian fighter had nothing but praise for Weidman and his training team, which includes noted striking coach Ray Longo and former UFC welterweight champion Matt Serra.

"He's the best in the world," Theodorou said of Weidman (13-0-0). "Most other places would want to shelter him, kind of keep him away from anyone. Whereas they're just wide-open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Arsenal advances after Giroud hat trick

Olivier Giroud
MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

Olivier Giroud scored a hat trick as Arsenal advanced to the last 16 of the Champions League with a 3-0 win over Olympiakos on Wednesday, overturning an advantage held by the Greeks.

The France striker opened the scoring in the 29th minute, heading home off a cross from Aaron Ramsey, with the ball bouncing under goalkeeper Roberto Gonzalez.

He struck again four minutes after halftime, running through defenders to slot in a pass from former Olympiakos player Joel Campbell.

Olympiakos, which beat Arsenal 3-2 in London, nearly pulled a goal back through Kostas Fortounis, while Ideye Brown missed a point blank chance.

But the game followed Arsenal's script and the deafening crowd at Karaiskakis Stadium was silenced when Omar Elabdellaoui slipped and handled the ball.

Giroud again beat Gonzalez from the resulting penalty to seal the match and second place behind Bayern Munich in Group F. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOVING ON

Seeded teams: Real Madrid, Wolfsburg, Atletico Madrid, Manchester City, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Chelsea, Zenit St. Petersburg

Unseeded teams: Paris Saint-Germain, PSV Eindhoven, Benfica, Juventus, Roma, Arsenal, Dynamo Kyiv, Gent.

RECIPE Baked Fried Chicken

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

All the crunch of fried chicken but with much less fat in the final dish, this baked recipe is sure to become part of your regular roster!

Ready in
Prep time: 60 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup buttermilk (or add a tsp of vinegar to regular milk and let it sit for 15 minutes)
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 8 or 9 chicken pieces (thighs and drumsticks)
- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat bread crumbs
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme
- 1 1/2 tsp lemon zest
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. Combine the buttermilk and garlic together in a shallow pan container. Coat the chicken pieces thoroughly and cover with plastic wrap. Place in the fridge to marinate for a half an hour or up to over night. Turn the chicken pieces over at least once while marinating.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
3. Mix bread crumbs in a bowl together with the thyme, zest and salt and pepper.
4. Dredge chicken pieces in the bread crumb mixture and place them on a baking sheet. Press bread crumbs onto the meat if some falls off.
5. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until the outside of the chicken is deeply golden and the meat is cooked through.

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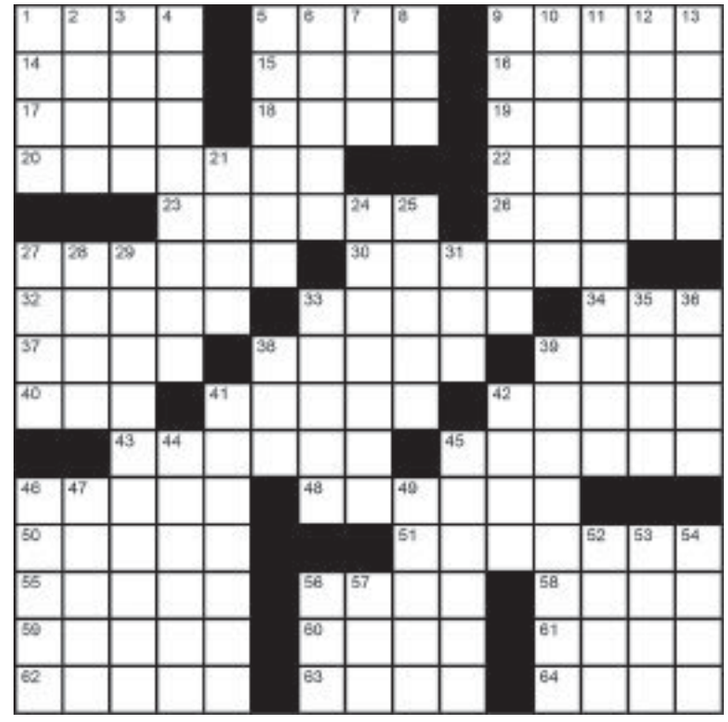
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Take a genetic sample
5. Rick Danko group, The _
9. Verity
14. Fork prong
15. Comic strip dog
16. Artwork like the original, informally
17. Famous volcano
18. Canadian pop crooner Mr. Forbes (More at #30-Across)
19. Masterpiece-maker's mount
20. Alberta village 45 minutes from Edmonton
22. Geared for rocking
23. Gorges
26. Feats
27. "Angel Eyes" singer Jeff
30. New debut album by #18-Across: '_ Woulda Shoulda'
32. Oscars gr.
33. Awestruck in facial expression
34. Gear
37. Purr alternative
38. Hears, like herald angels
39. Neat
40. "The A-Team" star, _. _
41. Cougars
42. Giver
43. Soldier's uniform part
45. YouTube owner
46. Greek alphabet's 8th letter
48. Short _ (Curt brush-off)
50. Type of mil. mission
51. Away from, say, the manufacturing plant
55. Expect
56. Edge
58. Thought
59. "Wuthering Heights" (1939) star Ms. Oberon
60. Mr. Diggs
61. Tree varieties
62. Crowbar user, say
63. Vesper _, "Casino Royale" (2006) character
64. Seven, in Sherbrooke

DOWN
1. Editor's 'let it stand'
2. "I'm _ You": Avril Lavigne hit
3. 'A' in AD
4. Almond paste is an ingredient in this 'wild' pastry: 2 wds.
5. Furniture retailer with stores across Canada
6. All in _ _ work
7. Puny parasite
8. Private Investigator, e.g.
9. Vintage sewing machine foot peddle
10. Squeezed the orange on the kitchen gadget
11. It's when the talker talks as if everything is a question?
12. Forested
13. Carries
21. "_ Leaving Home" by The Beatles
24. Mark _: Shania Twain duettist on "Party for Two"
25. Drenches
27. Jon of "Mad Men"
28. 'E' of ER, briefly
29. Glass _ jars (Cotton ball holders, perhaps)
31. Parcel delivery co.
33. Willie of "Eight Is Enough"
35. Seacrest's show, split
36. Car wheel, British-spelling style
38. Buzz
39. Canadian footwear brand since the 1940s, Tender _
41. Horticultural holder
42. Politely tip one's hat
44. Star: French
45. Talented
46. The _, Charlie Chaplin's persona
47. Woodcutter
49. _-Noranda, Quebec
52. Laze
53. Office helper, commonly
54. The Middle _
56. Ocean, e.g.
57. James _ (Canadian body of water)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Put all doubts and fears out of your mind and do what you think is best. You have a clear picture of what needs to be done and the courage to make it happen. Don't hesitate.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
As communications planet Mercury moves in your favour today you won't be in the least bit shy or tongue-tied. Let others know what it is you need and they will give it.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you need to make a new start now is the time to speak up and let others know what it is you intend to do — and that your intentions are serious. But don't get so serious that you forget how to have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You know that you have what it takes to succeed but others may need some convincing. You'll find it easier to persuade colleagues and employers, just remember that actions count more than words.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Go your own way and do your own thing. And don't worry about others — the best way to win them over is to act like their approval means nothing to you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone will deliver unexpected news today but you should have seen it coming. No matter how much it might upset you just accept it and move on. What else can you do?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is someone you should be seeing more of and this is the ideal time to ring them up and arrange to get together again. Don't drift apart so easily in future.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have overlooked a small but important detail and the effects of that oversight will become apparent. Do not blame others for your failure. Be big enough to own your mistakes.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
For too long you've kept your aims and ambitions to yourself — let everyone know what you want and what you're doing to get it. Most people will be supportive. The few who are not you can safely ignore.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The doubts and fears of the past few weeks will fade away today as Mercury moves into your sign. The things you have been most anxious about will turn out to be the things you had least to fear.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Put principle before profit and don't worry if you seem to be the only one who cares. Others do care but few get as emotionally involved as you.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Difficult choices concerning your career will have to be made but don't do anything before you have consulted people you trust. It could be they can suggest less painful ways of making the changes you need.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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9			3		2			
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2								

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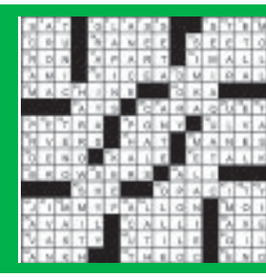

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5	1	6	2	7	4	9	8	3
8	3	2	9	5	1	4	7	6
7	5	1	3	6	2	8	9	4
6	8	4	1	9	7	5	3	2
2	9	3	5	4	8	6	1	7

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